

18 Jan-1994

Mr. Harold Weisberg  
Old Receiver Road  
Frederick MD 21702.

JE Ray #65477  
7475 Cockrill Bend Ind~~R~~.  
Nashville, 37209-1010.

Dear Harold,

Well were trying to obtain another hearing in the MLK case. I understand the "Tennessean" has contacted you about it. Loyd Jowers, who operated a bar underneath the flophouse where I had checked in in Memphis claims he had a part in the MLK shooting, and has ask for immunity. Naturally the AG don't want to indict him for anything since Jowers could then subpoena for his defense the classified files in the case. In re the files, I recently filed an FOIA with Army intelligence for its surveillance of MLK and was told they had no records of any kind but the Army may have placed them in the archives in 1979(the same time Blakey-~~Stokes~~ placed their files in the NARS. So I have written the archives as the Army suggested. (As you probably know, the Army took over the electronic surveillance of MLK in 1966 when Clark stopped the FBI.

The Judge hearing our petition has stated that even thought I may prove I didn't shoot MLK the 99 years would stand...he assumes I was an knowing accomplice. I think this will be the State's first fall back defense even if it conflicts with the extradition treaty I was returned to the US under.

The Judge is also going into the "best interest" guilty plea bit. This is N.C. v. Alford which you mentioned in your book at p. 89. It seems Alford plead guilty to a reduced charge of murder while maintaining his innocence. The court ruled he plea for his "best interest" and it was OK even if he were innocence. Now, in my case I have always testified beginning in the 1969 suit against Foreman/Huie that the death penalty threat had nothing to do with the plea plus the State has never thus far made an issue of it, although the news media has constantly harped or touted the plea was made to avoid a death sentence. Anyway, I am getting all the papers & documents together indicating everyone except me wanted the plea and that other threat rather than a death penalty threat led to the plea. This brings me to several press conference Judge Battle made after the plea, some of the apparently conducted by NY "Times" reporter Bernard Graser?. I have one of the Battle interviews see enclosure. But I noted

in your book that in another news conference Judge Battle stated he feared I might get a hung jury or even be acquitted. Do you have this clipping or a duplicate? If so I would appreciate a copy of it. If not, can old copies of the NY "Times" be purchased from the paper. I assume the copy would be a flim or something. I think the Judge also may have spokan to the Wash. "Post" about the plea. Anyway if you have any information about the Battle statements I could use it. (In turn I'll have Jerry do some songs for you on cassette--he is no longer a country crooner but has gone into RAP.

Well that about it for now. Trust all is going well.

Sincerely,

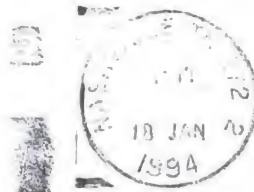
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. E. Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

2-enclosures.

Note, I think to obtain back issues from newspapers on a certain subject one has to have p. nr. & the specifice edition, covering the sujet of interest,



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